

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JULY 18, 1897.—COPYRIGHT, 1897, BY THE SUN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.

CHRIST'S NEW SAYINGS.

STORY OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE Papyrus AT OXYRHYNCHUS.

The Ruins Where Grenfell and Hunt Found the Oldest Extant Specimen of Christian Literature—Appearance of the Papyrus—The Remarkable Discoveries of Flinders Petrie Concerning the Ancient Egyptians.

LONDON, July 9.—This year's discoveries among the buried cities and ruins of Egypt and Assyria promise to yield the world a fuller knowledge of the early history of the race than all the books and records previously within our reach. In both great departments of research—the earliest days of man and the history of the Christian era—treasures have been gained out-rivalling in interest and importance almost all previous discoveries. In mere quantity the ancient records unearthed amount to more than the total of all previous discoveries combined. They range in age from the seventh century centuries before the birth of Christ down to the third or fourth century of the present era. The study and translation of this mass of material will occupy from ten to fourteen years before it can be fully deciphered by the few archaeologists who are competent for the difficult task.

Have described, by no means adequately, in occasional cable despatches during the last few weeks some of the more striking features of these revelations of the history of a younger civilization than ours. The great prize of all in the eyes of the religious world is, of course, the oldest written record ever found of the sayings of Christ.

This morning, at Oxford, I held in my hand a small sheet, which at present ranks as the oldest extant specimen of purely Christian literature. This was the papyrus discovered last January by Grenfell and Hunt of Oxford. It is a fragment of a collection of the logia, or sayings, of Christ, the finding of which I cabled to The Sun some weeks ago. Before this letter appears I hope to have cabled a translation of this interesting document.

Ancient Oxford, with its youthful undergraduate population, young leaves upon a perennially budding old tree, must always form a quaint contrast to the observer. Quainter still is the contrast between the age of the young man who found this morning in Queen's College, Oxford, the little yellow page of papyrus which showed me, for the combined ages of these two young "diggers" of antiquaries would certainly not add up to sixty years.

Working on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Society, they were out last year in quest of something old that would be new. They made their way to the site of an old city 120 miles south of Cairo. It lies right on the edge of the desert, with the river flowing on the far side. Oxyrhynchus has long been known as one of the chief centres of early Christianity, but hitherto has been known to give up any of its treasures to the archaeologist. The site of this ancient city is some two and a half miles long by half a mile broad, and four crumbling mosques of considerable size point to its past importance. To-day it is inhabited only by a poverty-stricken collection of villagers, numbering less than two hundred.

The mounds in which the "prospectors" dug lie in ranges, and are of various heights and sizes, some of them rising to a height of thirty or forty feet. In many parts of Egypt the native knows the value of papyrus sheets, and when he comes across them in digging up the light soil he uses for manure he carries them away and sells them to the wandering hunter of such relics. At Oxyrhynchus, Grenfell and Hunt found people who knew nothing of such things. But they soon learned, and after thirteen weeks' digging the whole village had grown prosperous on the results of their labors. "And probably every man has a new coat and a new pair of shoes," says the ordinary wages of a man were fifteen cents a day, while boys earned four cents less. In addition to this they were encouraged by rewards for all the papyrus sheets they brought in at the end of the day. The virgin soil of Oxyrhynchus was very productive, and some of the industrious made on occasion what was looked upon as untold wealth—almost \$5 a week!

Provisions were easily obtained about a fortnight from Cairo, and as for a dwelling, the hunters built themselves an eight-roomed house with a plank roof. The cost of the house ran to something less than \$5 a room, and when they came away they carried the roof and the planks for their discoveries. In all, they brought back twelve large packing cases, each containing a couple of good-sized tin boxes of papyrus. Many of these will probably never be thoroughly examined, and those which seem of the greatest importance will provide work for their decipherers for the next year or more.

These papyrus are strange looking refuse. Some of them are in rolls perhaps fourteen inches in length and a couple of inches broad, looking something like a huge old cigar, dry, dusty, and weevil-eaten, crushed flat by a heavy weight. But those that have been dampened and opened and unrolled show a fine, shining, yellow, and where the surface of the papyrus is un-injured, the ink shows up as black as though it had flowed from the pen only a week ago. The writing, too, is beautifully clear, especially in the ecclesiastical manuscripts, which are the work of educated men. I saw one of the pens with which this writing was done. It was simply six inches of hollow cane sharpened to a point.

The page in which so much interest is now being taken is a small sheet some five or six inches long by three and a half or four inches broad. It is written in clear Greek characters of a modified uncial description. This page is numbered "11," and is, of course, one of a book which, perhaps, contained a large collection of Christ's sayings. Although book form was not common till considerably later, the date of this page is put down as being certainly as early as the very beginning of the third century—about 200 A. D. It may be a little earlier, but 200 is the probable date.

The sayings which are written on its two sides are almost all contained, with slight variations, in the New Testament as we now have it. But some few of them are quite new. By the time this sheet will probably have appeared in The Sun, it will be the property of the British Museum, which the finders themselves think. In their opinion the collection of logia, of which this page is a fragment, is perfectly independent of the New Testament as we have it. Perhaps I should rather have said that our New Testament is perfectly independent of these logia. Some experts who have seen the page think it may be long to the book which was the foundation of St. Matthew's gospel. But Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt do not adhere to this view at all. One passage contains a word which is used by Luke alone of the Evangelists. And it has been thought that Luke, a man of higher education than the other three, used it merely as a synonym, taking the passages from the same source as the others. Finding this word in the newly discovered text would point to St. Luke's having probably had access to different sources of information. In fact, Hunt and Grenfell think they have found part of the many collections of Christ's sayings that were undoubtedly made by many different people, and to which Luke refers in the outset of his gospel.

Another interesting point in connection with the text is that in the opinion of Hunt and Grenfell it bears distinctly upon ancient Jewish

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Christianity, as distinguished from what has since developed into what we may call orthodox Christianity.

What helps to fix the date of this particular page as being certainly not later than early in the two hundreds, is the fact that all the papyrus found near are of about that date and earlier. One large sheet they showed me this morning was found close to the logia and bears internal evidence of being of the first century. This ancient document was a letter from a Governor severely rebuking a police official in connection with a disorderly outbreak which had occurred in the district.

Yet another fragment they showed me was a page, marked A, of later date than the logia, and opening with the exact words of the first chapter of Matthew's gospel as we now have it; in fact, this page was practically identical with Matthew, chapter 1. It may be that there are still more papyrus of Biblical interest in these as yet unexamined, or among those that still lie undisturbed in the light soil of Oxyrhynchus. Mr. Grenfell's theory is that these Christian writings were thrown away during the Diocletian persecution in order to escape the rigors of the anti-Christian monarch, and if that is the case we may have certainly for further interesting finds.

Prof. Flinders Petrie, the greatest of Egyptologists, while perhaps not so fortunate as Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt in their great find, discovered a mass of ancient writing which he has called the "Papyrus of the Great Temple." It is a mass of papyrus, about fifty miles south of Cairo, and he has brought home no fewer than 4,000 tablets containing records of the early Egyptians, besides an enormous collection of their handwriting of every description. Both from Deshashah, near the Great Temple, and from the south, there come remains of the same people, the subjects of Kings assigned by Egyptologists to the Fourth and Fifth Dynasties. They all belong to the Old Kingdom, for that closes with the Sixth Dynasty. They are older than most, if not all, of the pyramid builders, and certainly played a part in the history of the race which he materially later than 3,500 years before Christ; some things may go back almost to 4,000.

And they were no rude barbarians. Though metal does not appear to have been in common use among them, it existed, but bronze seems then to have been a rarity, as their tools were of stone. They were employed by the great houses, and were probably attached to a rope, were employed in the mines, and were used for the same purposes. The artistic power of this early people was singularly great. The tombs of El Kab have yielded a collection of vases and bowls, wrought not only from alabaster but also from porphyry and varieties of diorite, one of them being a very light-colored kind, with scattered dark green spots, a rock of great beauty. All these, whether the material be soft or hard, are wrought with wonderful skill. One of the alabaster vases has two flanges projecting from the rim, something like those occasionally made at the present day to keep the mustache from the fluid, intended probably to prevent the latter from being spilt on the face. But there is further and, in some respects, more striking evidence of artistic power in the days of these early dynasties. A little group of amulets shows a mastery over sundry gums—it is the first that has ever been found—but Deshashah has furnished results yet more valuable. They consist of statues and statuettes found in a rock chamber connected with a ruined tomb of masonry, once of considerable size. The most striking is a statue, three-quarters of life size, representing a certain Nephthys. It is admirably modelled and life-like in expression, almost wholly free from the conventional treatment so marked in later Egyptian art. It is, in fact, hardly inferior to that exquisite figure of the scribe, now preserved in the Museum of the Louvre in Paris, and assigned to the Fifth Dynasty. Other figures of smaller size represent Nephthys's wife and her son, both with names. The tomb had evidently been violated at some early date, for all the figures were more or less broken; but, strange to say, the heads of the larger statues were placed in a recess. The treatment suggests that the intention was to disfigure rather than to destroy. The tombs of this region have yielded other very important finds. The dead, in some cases, were entombed

in great wooden coffins—rude rectangular boxes, formed of boards a couple of inches thick. The skeletons, which remain in these coffins, often tell a strange tale. Some appear to have been laid there in the usual manner. One of these (a female) had one leg shorter than the other, and her walking stick was placed beside her, that she might be supported by its shadow in the spirit land. But in other cases the bones had been stripped of flesh prior to the entombment. This can be inferred with certainty from the condition in which they are found. They have been separately wrapped in linen, placed together in the general form of the skeleton, but often with considerable disturbance, as if this was only done in a rough and ready way, and the whole was afterward packed in outer coverings.

What was done with the flesh we cannot tell, possibly it was buried separately, as is still done at the present day by some tribes in Queensland. Possibly it was eaten, for, as Prof. Petrie proved last year, a race from the Libyan Desert, which for some time occupied Egypt, perhaps four or five centuries later, were certainly cannibals.

There are some interesting relics of later date than the First Kingdom in this collection, such as necklaces of all kinds, amulets, and the like, but one of the most curious, though comparatively modern—for it dates from about the second century B. C.—is a collection of statues of cats, some in marble by Greek artists, and some in limestone by Egyptians. The latter would take the prize for realism. The Greek sculptor's cat is rather conventional, and looks like a reminiscence of a panther, for he probably did not know the cat; but that animal was familiar to the Egyptian, who has caught the true expression.

The discoveries in Assyria, and near the site of ancient Babylon, have not yet been examined with sufficient care for a true estimate to be put upon their value and significance. It is confidently expected, however, that they will carry back the recorded history of the race to about 7500 B. C., or about 3,500 years earlier than the Biblical account of the creation of man.

EXPLORING THE BARREN LANDS. Hanbury's Perilous Trip in the Far North of Canada.

QUEBEC, July 17.—D. T. Hanbury, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, has returned to civilization after a dangerous exploration of that portion of the barren lands of Canada far north which had not been trodden previously by white men. His visit lasted more than a year. His object was to explore the unknown lands north of Liard and west of the Mackenzie River. He succeeded only in part, and that after undergoing very great hardships. He travelled several thousand miles on snowshoes, lived for months on a meat diet in constant danger of scurvy, and was at one time almost broken up by the ice. They then crossed on sleds and reached the Mackenzie River, where they found the remains of a party of men who had perished there. Mr. Hanbury and his wife and children, who were with him, were nearly killed by a bear. They were rescued by a party of men who had been sent to look for them. Mr. Hanbury's journey was a most perilous one, and he has returned with a wealth of information about the north.

The dead, in some cases, were entombed

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CONTINUATION OF

Midsummer Clearing Sales.

The climax of Bargain Selling is everywhere illustrated throughout the store as the result of our Midsummer Clearing Sales, and the large volume of business that is being daily transacted in consequence. Some of the attractions for this week are enumerated herewith—all of special interest to buyers of Summer necessities by reason of the greatly reduced prices at which they are offered.

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TAILOR-MADE DRESSES of high-grade materials, comprising Etamines, Broadcloths, Scotch Tweeds, and Brillantes, handsomely braided and stitched; blazer, reefer, light-fitting or fly front jacket effects; some lined throughout with Taffeta silk, all

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HIGH-CLASS DRESSES in imported cloths (copies of Paris models), elaborately braided, 19.75; Were \$30.00 to \$55.00.

DRESSES in fine Organdies and Lappets, trimmed profusely with lace and ribbons, 16.50

FANCY DUCK OUTING SUITS, Blazer and Jacket effects, French seams, choice colorings, 3.75—were \$9.75

DRESS SKIRTS of accordion-plaited Mozambique and Silk Mohair, with underskirt of fine quality Taffeta silk, 12.75—were \$22.75

DRESS SKIRTS of Armure Moire Velour, lined with Fine Percaleine and velvet faced, choice selection of colors, 5.69—were \$12.75

DRESS SKIRTS in accordion-plaited Black Sticellienne, and Black and White Polka dot Louisienne, with underskirt of Percaleine, 5.75—were \$11.50

DRESS SKIRTS of heavy Irish Crash, French-finished seams, deep hems, 1.49

BICYCLE SKIRTS of heavy Irish Crash, French-finished seams, with eight rows of stitching around bottom of skirt, 2.39

BATHING SUITS in English Rep. Brilliantine, collar, yoke, belt, and sleeves trimmed with rows of white braid, 2.98

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Lot 3 contains Net Fichus, Hand-applied Collars, Batiste and Venice Lace Scarfs, Fancy Gauze Fronts, Boleros, &c., all at 2.98 each; were \$3.98 to \$5.98

Lot 4 composed of Real Russian Lace Collars, Real Russian Lace Boleros, Pleated Silk sleeveless Waists, Chiffon and Lace Fronts, Mouseline Collarettes, &c., all at 3.98 each; were \$5.98 to \$8.98

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Novelty Ribkolins—Persian, Turkish, Raglaid and Floral—advance styles for next Fall, when prices will be double, 5c

Fancy Drapery Silks—extra quality—all latest—new and novel styles including Delit and Oriental effects, 39c

Art Dentins—advance styles for Fall—You'll find them somewhere before September, when prices will be much higher, 12c

Snowflake and Ecu Yarn Curtains—colored cross stripes—eight colorings; value 1.79, 1.24

Best Floral Chenille Table Covers 2 yards square—all colors—medallion centres—handmade fringe, 1.49

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Dozen All Linen Barber Towels—14x24—also 98 cent Fine Bath Damask Towels double knot fringe, 59c

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Shaker and Canton Planners 27 inches wide—summer weight—real value eight cents, 5c

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